

Serial No.: 10/698,112
Art Unit: 3732

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of making an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip, comprising the following sequence of steps:

providing a soft grip and an ultrasonic dental scaler insert, said soft grip having a rigid polymeric inner wall and bonded to an elastomeric outer wall, said ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a tip, a connector, and a magnetostrictive member, said connector having a first connector end and a second connector end, said first connector end being connected to said tip, said second connector end being connected to said magnetostrictive member, and

affixing said soft grip to said ultrasonic dental scaler insert, whereby said rigid polymeric inner wall circumscribes said connector to form an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid polymeric inner wall is generally cylindrical, and said soft grip is snap-fit onto said connector.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid polymeric inner wall comprises a first rigid polymeric side and a second rigid polymeric side, said elastomeric outer wall comprises a first elastomeric side and a second elastomeric side, said first elastomeric side is affixed to said first rigid polymeric side, said second elastomeric side is affixed to said second rigid polymeric side, and said rigid polymeric inner wall is formed by affixing said first rigid polymeric side to said second rigid polymeric side.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said soft grip member is generally cylindrical.

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Claims 6-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid polymeric inner wall is generally cylindrical and said elastomeric outer wall is generally cylindrical.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said soft grip member is generally cylindrical and is snap-fit onto said ultrasonic dental scaler insert.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid polymeric inner wall forms a nozzle for said ultrasonic dental scaler insert.

Claim 12. (Original) An insert for use in a dental handpiece having a housing having a longitudinal bore, comprising: a tip, a magnetostrictive member, a connecting member, a nozzle, and a grip, said tip being connected to a first end of said connecting member, said magnetostrictive member being connected to a second end of said connecting member, said nozzle being supported by said connecting member, said grip being supported by said nozzle, said grip comprising rigid polymeric material and elastomeric polymeric material.

Claim 13. (Original) A method of making an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip, comprising: providing an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a nozzle and a magnetostrictive member, providing a soft grip having a rigid polymeric channel supporting an elastomeric layer, positioning said soft grip member over said nozzle to form an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said rigid polymeric channel is generally cylindrical and said elastomeric layer is generally cylindrical.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said soft grip is generally cylindrical and is snap-fit onto said ultrasonic dental scaler insert.

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Claim 16. (Currently amended) A method of making an ultrasonic dental scaler insert, comprising the following sequence of steps:

providing an ultrasonic dental scaler insert, and a first soft grip half-section member and a second soft grip half-section member,

said first soft grip half-section member having a first rigid polymeric inner wall and a first elastomeric outer wall, said second soft grip half-section member having a second rigid polymeric inner wall and a second elastomeric outer wall,

said ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a tip, a connector, and a magnetostrictive member, said connector having an elongated body, a first connector end and a second connector end, said first connector end being connected to said tip, said second connector end being connected to said magnetostrictive member, and

affixing said first soft grip half-section member to said second soft grip half-section member to form a soft grip, whereby said first rigid polymeric inner wall and said second rigid polymeric inner wall circumscribe said elongated body to form an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method of making an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip, comprising the following sequence of steps:

providing a soft grip member having an elastomeric outer wall affixed to a rigid polymeric inner wall,

connecting said soft grip member to an ultrasonic dental scaler insert to form an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip.

Claim 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said ultrasonic dental scaler insert has a tip, a connector, and a magnetostrictive member, said connector having a first connector end connected to said tip, and a second connector end, connected to said magnetostrictive member.

Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said rigid wall is generally cylindrical, and said soft grip is snap-fit onto said connector.

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Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said ultrasonic dental scaler insert further comprises a nozzle and said nozzle comprises said rigid wall.

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